

**House Resolution**

**No. 51**

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**Introduced by Assembly Member Quirk**

May 2, 2016

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House Resolution No. 51—Relative to Compost Awareness Week.

1 WHEREAS, Composting is an effective form of waste reduction,  
2 reuse, and recycling, and since organic materials make up  
3 approximately 30 percent of the material going to landfills,  
4 composting is becoming one of the primary methods communities  
5 use to reach waste diversion goals and create sustainable  
6 communities; and

7 WHEREAS, Chapter 719 of the Statutes of 2014 phased out  
8 diversion credits for organic alternative daily cover in landfills  
9 and Chapter 727 of the Statutes of 2014 statutorily mandated  
10 commercial recycling of organics; and

11 WHEREAS, Section 42649.87 of the Public Resources Code  
12 requires the California Environmental Protection Agency, in  
13 coordination with the Department of Resources Recycling and  
14 Recovery, the State Water Resources Control Board, the State Air  
15 Resources Board, and the Department of Food and Agriculture,  
16 to “develop and implement policies to aid in diverting organic  
17 waste from landfills by promoting the use of agricultural, forestry,  
18 and urban organic waste as a feedstock for composting and by  
19 promoting the appropriate use of that compost throughout the  
20 state”; and

21 WHEREAS, Materials, including yard trimmings, vegetable  
22 cuttings, biosolids, food scraps, manures, and hay shavings, have  
23 been composted and converted into a beneficial product known as  
24 compost; and

1 WHEREAS, Returning organic resources to the soil reduces  
2 water consumption by over 30 percent on all soil types, conserves  
3 water during extreme drought or flooding conditions, decreases  
4 dependence on chemical fertilizers and pesticides, and decreases  
5 erosion and nonpoint source pollution; and

6 WHEREAS, Composting is recognized by the State Air  
7 Resources Board as an important tool to sequester massive amounts  
8 of carbon in California's soils to help immediately reverse global  
9 warming; and

10 WHEREAS, Communities, through their local governments,  
11 highway departments, soil conservation services, and public works  
12 professionals, can have significant impact on clean water, soil,  
13 climate change, and landfill diversion by using compost for public  
14 works projects; and

15 WHEREAS, International Compost Awareness Week is a  
16 multimedia publicity and educational initiative to showcase  
17 compost production and demonstrate compost use; and

18 WHEREAS, Composting creates green jobs and infrastructure  
19 for cities and states that implement composting programs; and

20 WHEREAS, The United States Composting Council, Canada,  
21 and the United Kingdom have declared the first week of May to  
22 be the annual International Composting Awareness Week; and

23 WHEREAS, The Association of Compost Producers is the  
24 California State Chapter of the United States Composting Council  
25 and manages International Composting Awareness Week in  
26 California; and

27 WHEREAS, The theme of 2016, "Compost: the Soil and Water  
28 Connection," is a great way to get the message out regarding  
29 compost and its many benefits to communities and property  
30 owners; now, therefore, be it

31 *Resolved by the Assembly of the State of California*, That the  
32 week of May 1, 2016, through May 7, 2016, is hereby designated  
33 as Compost Awareness Week; and be it further

34 *Resolved*, That the Chief Clerk of the Assembly transmit copies  
35 of this resolution to the author for appropriate distribution.

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